

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 10/02/2014**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, October 2, 2014, in the Administration Building. Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon and Mr. Tarro. Absent were Dr. Dominguez and Mr. Fuller.

Mrs. Kate Brody introduced School Committee members present at the meeting: Student Representative Ms. Lucina Schwartz, Mr. Patrick Guida and Dr. Robert Shea. Dr. Paula Dominguez and Mr. Scott Fuller were absent. Mrs. Brody also introduced the Administration and Central Office Staff: Superintendent Mr. Michael Messore, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mrs. Paula Dillon, Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald Tarro, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Joseph DeSisto led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Achievement Recognition**

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

On September 30, 2014, the U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that Barrington Middle School was one of 25 public middle schools in the United States to receive the prestigious 2014 National Blue Ribbon School recognition.

Twelve Barrington High School students have earned the distinction of 2015 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists: Natasha Anis, Benjamin Feit, Steven Forte, Alexander Greenberg, Harrison Kraus, Theodore Kurkoski, Matthew Lamontagne, Brian Mc Gartoll, Kieran Mc Gartoll, Lucina Schwartz, Rachel Sheinberg, and Haley Wohlever.

Barrington High School hosted their third annual Relay for Life event on June 13, 2014 organized by Class of 2014 seniors Tim Connor and Zachary Chavez, and faculty adviser Suzanne Pickford. The 420 participants raised \$61,515 for the American Cancer Society.

**BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning**

Mr. Messore introduced Barrington High School Math Teacher Mr. Mario Correia who provided information on the SAS Statistical Software pilot program at Bryant University. The summer program was offered to five Barrington High School students, Mr. Correia, and Barrington High School Business Teacher Mr. John West. The program is set to be expanded and the next workshop, in the summer of 2015, will be offered to all high schools.

**Information and Proposals**

Mr. Messore introduced representatives of the Barrington High School Class of 1964, Mr. Joseph DeSisto, Mr. Peter Horsman, and Mr. William O'Neill, who presented a Veterans Plaque of all Barrington High School graduates who served in the armed forces from World War I to the present. Mr. O'Neill thanked another classmate, not present, Mr. Kevin Connor, and the Barrington United Veterans Council for execution of the plaque. Mr. Messore thanked the Class of 1964 and stated that the plaque will be placed in the Barrington High School library at a ceremony on November 10, 2014.

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Mrs. Dillon, followed by a number of staff present, provided an overview on the district wide social emotional needs support for all students, grades K-12. Instructional Coach and Literacy Coordinator Mrs. Kristen Matthes, and Primrose Hill School Emotional Regulation Specialist Mrs. Heidi Brousseau, outlined the three tiers in the Response to Intervention process. Certified Responsive Classroom Consultants, Nayatt School Kindergarten Teacher Mrs. Candace Roberts, and Primrose Hill School Grade 3 Teacher Mrs. Janet Provost, provided information on the three domains of the Responsive Classroom approach model. Barrington High School Director of Guidance Mrs. Toni Corry outlined the guidance services for Grades 4-12 and the transition programs for students. Primrose Hill School Psychologist Mrs. Donna Hartmann highlighted the array of social work services available. Barrington High School Student Assistance Counselor Mrs. Joanne Royley provided information on intensive supports that include individual and group counseling. The presentation was followed by questions from the Committee on the use of data to assess and track intervention plans, the system for student referrals, and discussion ensued on student stress.

Mr. Messore led the presentation on the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) school accountability reports, noting the opportunity to review data and the identify the needs for continuous improvement. Mrs. Dillon reviewed the criteria for the information that is included in the reports. All building administrators were present including, Primrose Hill School Principal Mrs. Patricia Tolento, Sowams School Principal Mr. James Callahan, Nayatt School Principal Ms. Tracey Whitehead, Hampden Meadows School Principal Mrs. Tracey McGee, Barrington Middle School Principal Dr. Andrew Anderson, and Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley. Each principal shared detailed data on their school report, as well as information on strategies to close performance gaps. The presentation was followed by questions and discussion on strategies for continuous improvement and possible addition of resources. Mr. Messore also presented an update of the SAT, ACT, and AP scores with comparisons to Rhode Island and national averages.

At 10:00 p.m., Mrs. Brody called for a five minute recess. The meeting resumed at 10:05 p.m.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the Strategic Plan SmartSheet, the internal working document used to track the progress of the 62 initiatives identified in the 2012-2017 District Strategic Plan for implementation over a four year period. Mr. Messore reported that a School Start Times Task Force has been established at the administrative level. Discussion ensued on a report presented to the Health and Wellness Committee by Dr. Megan Douglas as well as the August 2014 American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement.

Ms. Schwartz departed the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

Dr. Megan Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, spoke to the research on sleep times and the benefits at all grade levels, especially Middle School and High School.

Mrs. Kathleen Gantz, of 19 Half Mile Road, expressed her gratitude for the school comparisons nationally. Mrs. Gantz asked that there be a process to ensure teachers are following best practice with student social emotional needs, and for the consideration of world languages in earlier grade levels.

Mr. Andrew Winner, of 14 Laurel Lane, offered his help with the school start times discussion if there is an opportunity to do so.

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The Committee agreed to hear the Field Trip Approval agenda item out of order. Barrington High School Music Department Co-Chairs Mrs. Barbara Hughes and Mr. Nahum Mitnik requested approval for an overnight field trip on March 4-8, 2015 to Walt Disney World for all Music Department students in performing groups. Mrs. Hughes and Mr. Mitnik provided an overview of all trip logistics.

**Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the field trip on March 4-8, 2015 for the Barrington High School Music Department. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Old Business from Superintendent and Staff**

Mr. Messore provided an update relating to the District Strategic Communication Plan. Policy development on communication with parents relating to sensitive matters is ongoing. Email communication continues to expand with the School Committee Briefs and emails from the Superintendent relating to timely issues.

**Old Business from School Committee**

No old business from the School Committee was presented at this time.

**New Business from Superintendent and Staff**

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for August in the amount of \$2,293,815.26.**

Mr. Tarro reported on the budget items that continue to be monitored including out of district tuition, legal services, and electricity usage. Mr. Tarro will attend the meeting, coordinated by the Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC), regarding the pension lawsuit involving a number of municipalities.

**The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Ruth DeRocha, Secretary to the Director of Pupil Personnel. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the leave of absence for Samantha Stebenne, HS, Math. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**New Business from School Committee**

Dr. Shea, Chair of the Health and Wellness Committee, reported on their recent meetings and discussions relating to topics including school start times, district allergy policies, student stress, and concussion protocol, and regular updates from Chartwells and the BAY Team.

Mrs. Brody led the discussion on the Town of Barrington Charter Change ballot questions that relate to the School Committee. The language relating to compensation for the School Committee and Town Council

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when discussed with the Charter Review Commission was the same, but is now being presented on the public ballot as different. Mr. Guida added that the opportunity for a School Committee and Town Council statement at the Financial Town Meeting was also not included as suggested.

**Decision Items**

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Discussion Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular School Committee meeting on October 23, 2014 will feature evaluation of programs, an update on the Barrington High School Internship Program, and a Science NECAP update pending release of the report from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE).

Mrs. Brody noted that a Strategic Plan Workshop and a second Policy Workshop will be scheduled in 2015.

**Announcements**

Mrs. Brody noted that Mr. Guida will accept the National Association of State Boards of Education's 2014 Distinguished Service Award on October 16, 2014 in Denver.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

Dr. Megan Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, expressed her concerns with communication for new parents, and noted that flyers approved by administration are not always included in all school newsletters.

Mrs. Kathleen Gantz, of 19 Half Mile Road, stated that she does not currently receive the School Committee Briefs via email. Mr. Messore asked that Mrs. Gantz contact the Central Office to confirm the email in the Aspen system is correct.

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:56 p.m. and go in to Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(8) relative to student disciplinary hearings. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:10 p.m. and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Shea seconded to return to open session at 11:11 p.m. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Shea seconded to uphold the decision of the Superintendent with regard to disciplinary action for student Jane Doe. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:12 p.m. The motion passed 3-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**